

ARTICLE 12  
ON PAGE 12

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**AROUND THE WORLD**

# ISRAEL TRIES ARMY OFFICER AS SYRIAN SPY

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AN Israeli Army intelligence officer with the rank of major has been secretly arrested and tried for spying for the Syrian government.

The latest spy scandal to rock Jerusalem followed two other major security shake-ups and came as tensions with Damascus were mounting swiftly.

It also led to new fears that Syria had stolen top intelligence data it could use in planning an invasion to retake the Golan Heights.

The officer accused of espionage was not identified, but he was said to have extensive contacts with Israel's left-wing community.

He was also described as the son of a prominent high-ranking military officer formerly

assigned to the Israeli Frontier Guard.

Release of details of the investigation of the officer, his arrest, and a two-week trial behind closed doors was banned by Israeli military censors.

But a Hebrew weekly published in New York, Israel Shelanu, disclosed that the spy was unmasked after the recent capture of an Arab terror squad in south Lebanon.

Under interrogation, the terrorists revealed the name of the Israeli officer, who was apparently in contact with the chief of the commandos.

A sealed indictment filed in Haifa District Court was argued by prosecutor Lilly Bourshanski before Judge Abraham Freidman, but the results of the

officer's trial were not immediately known.

It was also unclear whether the alleged Syrian spy was a major in the Israeli regular army or in the intelligence reserve corps.

But the security secrets he betrayed could be crucial if the Mideast powderkeg explodes.

Israeli intelligence believes the Syrians are planning a surprise attack to take advantage of political turmoil in Jerusalem and to retake the Golan Heights.

The nation has been badly battered recently by the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy scandal, which involved a well-financed Israeli network set up in Washington to spy on the U.S.

Jerusalem has also been shaken by recent revelations about the Shin Beth, the domestic intelligence agency charged with covering up the beating deaths of two Palestinian terrorists.